Census Survey Explorer

Kim Brown: My name is Kim Brown, I'm a training specialist here at the U.S Census Bureau. I want to thank you for joining us today. First I'd like to introduce some housekeeping rules before we introduce our speaker. As mentioned earlier, this webinar is being recorded. For your convenience it will be posted to the Census Academy site within 30 business days. We'll post all supplemental materials including the PowerPoint slides. In terms of how to ask questions during the webinar, you can submit your written questions using the Q&A panel. Which is at the bottom center or on the right side of your Webex screen. Please take a moment to locate that now. Once you've found the Q&A panel make sure you choose all panelists from the drop down menu. This will ensure we see your question. Don't send your question to an individual panelist. Also, we ask that you do not include any personal or business identifiable information with your questions.

Now, let's talk about the chat panel. Look for that on your screen now, it's probably right next to the Q&A panel. Definitely keep that chat panel open also because this is where we will provide key links and other resources. Keep in mind, you won't be able to respond to the chat, chat is just for us to send you links and other resources. In the chat box, we will be sharing throughout the webinar the link for the evaluation. We are very interested in hearing from you how we're doing. My colleagues Logan Powell, Alexandra Barker and Amy Lo will be monitoring the Q&A panel. As time allows, we will answer your question directly through the Q&A panel or we will share your question with the presenter to respond to after the presentation. If we don't get to all questions with the response during the webinar, we will post the questions and responses with the webinar materials within 30 business days. Lastly, near the end of the webinar I just want to remind you that we will be sharing that evaluation link. Because we are interested in hearing from you on how successful our training is. As you know, we're in a virtual environment and sometimes technical difficulties may occur. If you have any issues try a different browser, such as Chrome or consider logging out and coming back into the session. If you are having audio issues, try selecting the computer audio or calling into the webinar via phone.

Now I'd like to introduce my colleague, Mary Leisenring. Thanks again for being here. Mary you may begin.

Mary Leisenring: Hello everyone. I'm so excited to be here with you today. I want to thank you for coming and [inaudible: your interest in] the tool, I'm learning how to use the tool. My names Mary Leisenring, I help to lead the program Census Academy. This program focuses on digital education product development that teaches how to find and use Census Bureau data. She was a co, I am a co-founder of the Census Survey Explorer and I manage this project and the tool. And so, without further ado let us begin, I apologize for the dog barking. I put him away but someone won't stop knocking at my door as soon as this started of course, I'm sorry. Alright. So, I want to tell you a little bit about the data dissemination and training branch. The data dissemination and training branch, we can bring our data experts to you. And we can request, you can request a free training for your organization by using a link on Census Academy's website. At Census Academy we have Data Gems, which are short how-to videos and we also have courses, which are video tutorials where you can learn at your own pace. Then we also have our webinars, which you found this webinar today, but we have previously recorded webinars and our future webinars as well. On Census.gov/Academy you can find all of this and then we also have contact information for our ask data line where you can ask your questions to our data experts. So, the objectives for today. Overall, our overall goal is to introduce you to Census Survey Explorer and show you how to use it. We will share a brief background on the development of the tool. Simply because knowing where we came from to where and understanding where we were as compared to where we are now will help you gain a greater appreciation for the tool and understanding of what it can do for you. This tool most certainly filled a need and it can help you save time in your research, it's a very practical tool. We will then demonstrate the tool. And then I will also share some troubleshooting possibilities while I'm demonstrating the tool. The good news is, is that, this tool is designed to be really easy to use. But we're going to share some common situations and roadblocks that you may come across. After that we'll give you a chance to start using the tool with just one or two short hands-on exercises. And last, hopefully we'll have time to answer some questions and as a surprise we have Logan Powell and Amy Lo with us. Logan is the Developer Experience Lead for the Census Bureau. And Amy Lo is our very accomplished Civic Digital Fellow who dreamt up this tool and designed it for us.

They can answer some questions for you about the back-end of the tool and how it works. And user experience design if you're curious about that, or agile methodology that we used to develop the tool. Please feel free to ask those sorts of questions, as well as questions about the tool itself. Alright. So, a little bit about the background of how this tool originated before we dive in. The tool is conceptualized when a colleague and I discussed the best way to teach data seekers what topics were available across our many surveys. We have over 100 topics. And over 120 surveys. And so, topics can overlap between, from one survey to another survey. For example, let's think about the data topic employment. Many economic surveys have employment data. Which could be referencing the context of characteristics of employer businesses, business owners, payroll, or more. And then if you look at a demographic survey such as the current population survey, there's employment data that could be referenced in terms of who's employed in a household, or household income. So shown here on this slide we have a graphic where there's some overlapping topics in just two surveys. The American Community Survey and the Decennial Census. You can see in teal, the teal column, there's demographic information such as age, race and sex, but also in the burgundy bottom strip color you see age, race and sex as well. So, that's just another example of how topics overlap. Opps, I went too far, there we go. So, as you can imagine when we add more layers of information across 120 surveys and lots of topics, and we add the next layer which would be geography, the task of displaying this information is even more intense. Each, for every survey we have multiple topics, more than one geography potentially, it's one or more. We have the, like so a geography would be a county or state right? And then we need to also visualize the frequency of the data release, so is the data released on a monthly basis, or an annual basis. And then lastly we also, in the tool included the day of release. So how, how far back that survey goes, because if you're looking for a certain survey or data, you know, for a reference year such as 1950, but the survey didn't start until 1960, you know, that's handy information to know.
And we wanted to make sure that that information's at your fingertips as well. So, what we needed to do is fix a few issues. Alright. So after we realized that it was just really too complex to expect learners to memorize that volume of information, we also acknowledged that the path to researching what topics, geographies, frequencies, data releases for each survey, that pathway was long and kind of arduous.

Current Survey Explorer

So, before Census Survey Explorer data users and researchers had a few options to conduct their research. They had the surveys and programs lists page, which was each of our surveys. We would also have another page called our topics page, you could select a topic like employment. And it would take you to a bunch of information about employment and data about employment. Or you could use the search bar within census.gov. Each of these options required multiple clicks to find the information that we're talking about here. So, it kind of would send you down a rabbit hole to have to click on and sometimes you would even have to download a table to see some of the topics in a survey. So, a summary of what we realized about the available methods was that we must, there was no quick or comprehensive way to look up information. We needed to convey information for several pages of censuses and surveys. That the survey names and descriptions that you see before you click into the survey and open it up, would, the descriptions characters are limited. So, a little bit about what that survey is, you've got the name and just one or two sentences to kind of, try and guess what's in there. And that the user experience required several clicks to discover the topics, geographies and frequencies for each survey. And the mastery of this topic was just too much to expect from you or the average learner, or researcher. That we really needed to provide a resource more than memorization. And then there's topic overlap across some surveys, which adds some confusion. And that a static infographic just wasn't really cutting it. Okay. So here's what Census Survey Explorer can offer you now. This is where we're at now. You now have a tool that helps you to narrow down the choices of what surveys to research in a really time efficient way. Researchers can use the drop down filter menus to select criteria. To help you find what you're looking for. Or, you can use the tool in a more exploratory way to explore what we have. So say you don't really have that much of a goal in mind, this is a great tool actually to kind of learn what kind of data we even have. So the video playing in the background demonstrates using drop down menus and the tool to select criteria, such as topics and geographies. Once you select your criteria you have a full and complete baseline of surveys that it just filtered as your result to select from. And then you can do a deeper dive into those surveys that met your criteria. The [inaudible: sought after] information is available at a glance now.

And we, now that we have the key survey information and the full descriptions in view, versus just the description that was only that sentence or two, the searchability when you use the search bar is also vastly improved. And one of my favorite unexpected consequences is that, you may even find a lesser known survey that has a topic you might be looking for. In a context that you weren't thinking of yet. For example, if you search for crimes, you know, you wanted statistics on crime right? You might not think of juvenile crime, but when you search the topic of crime, you would see that some surveys pulled up with, that revolved around juvenile crime. So, that, it might be a little, a bit of smaller survey that you never had heard of before. And perhaps now you want to expand your inquiry. So I love that it's equitable to all the surveys, this tool. Okay. Alrighty. So, I want you to go ahead and open up the tool and just interact with me a little bit and our moderators for the Q&A in the chat. It's, if you go to www.census.gov/surveyexplorer. And you use the last drop down on the right hand side that says subtopics. Go ahead and find a topic that you just didn't even know we had. And go ahead and let the audience, you know, know and share, you know, that something fun that you might've found in the topics. And I'll just give like a few seconds for that. Okay. So, e-commerce I see, firm size, yep, yep, how big a firm, yep. Yeah there's definitely some interesting fertility, right, yep, year moved in. So yeah we have some, wildlife, yes. So, what is the website? Kim will you mind sharing the survey link, it's census.gov/surveyexplorer is how you can get there.

Childcare's another one, yeah thanks for participating with that, I'm glad that you had a chance to discover something new already! Okay. So the last thing I'm going to cover about the development process is to mention that we had the gift of having enough time before our developer, our, so the digital fellow was an intern, right for about a year. And so before she left, she was able to help us conduct some user experience feedback. And we collected feedback from internal, so Census employees and external, non-Census employee stakeholders. And we were also able to involve experts of people who knew quite a bit about census data. And people who knew zero, like they'd never even tried to use the Census Bureau to find data before. To test the tool and help us uncover any additional enhancements that we could potential make or clarifications that we can make. And I just like to think that we made some really good enhancements from that feedback and that we co-designed the tool with our end users feedback and with them in mind. So this tool is definitely for you. And we do like to hear your feedback, we are always considering what 2.0 might look like in the future. We believe in evolving, you know, as time goes on. So, I hope that you all enjoy using it. So, now we're going to go ahead and just dive into the tool. So I have to change screens here, so give me one second. Takes time to get this, there we go. Alright. Okay here we are. So again, census.gov/surveyexplorer is the URL you can type in. And the first thing that we should mention is the search bar. It can be helpful, I actually find it most helpful when I know the name of the survey that I'm looking for. It's just really great to be able to pull up that survey and you get, instantly get the metadata we, so it's a fancy word we like to say. So it's the content, what's in the survey, right, is the metadata, so we get a description of the survey and some descriptions are a little long, you just have to click on this more button. And you instantly get all this critical information. So, say you knew what you wanted, survey wise, I find that is a great way, just my go-to whenever I need to know something about a survey and I know which survey I'm looking for. You can use the search bar in combination with the drop down menu. But, it doesn't work like a Google search bar, search engine, search bar. It will only pull words that it finds within this page itself. So you can't ask a question and another big thing that people try to do is they try to search for, like it's a data tool. And, so that's, this is not a data tool in that it's going to provide you data like how many people live in Maryland, right. So you can't really ask a statistic question like that.

It's more a step before that, like you're looking into which surveys are the appropriate surveys for you that have the topics you're interested in. And the geographies you're interested in. Once you find that survey then you want to go into the survey and go and all more define the data. So that's an important clarification to make about the tool. So here we have, our drop down menus. I like using the drop down menus to find, you know, new information, but I love them because they inherently teach you how you should be framing your data question. Meaning that, to get you to think about which of these drop downs, geographies, or frequencies, etcetera, matter the most to you and your data question. So, some may matter more than others to you and you may even have to make a decision about what to prioritize if you conduct a search using these drop downs and say you got no results, right? You might have to decide, okay, I'm going to deprioritize one of these drop downs over another. So for example, if I go in the geographies and I click on zip code, so that pulls up all the surveys that are offered at the zip code level. And then I'm going to pull up under the frequencies drop down, I'm going to go ahead and select monthly. And under topics I'm going to select economic data. And under subtopics I'm going to select business. So if I scroll down I created a scenario I just described, where nothing showed up for me. But I'm going to go ahead and go to frequencies and I'm going to uncheck monthly because I think annual is fine for me this time, like I don't, the timeliness of the data, I want it relatively timely, but monthly isn't necessary.

So I'm going to deprioritize that frequency. And now I have three surveys that I can go into and explore. Alright. So, you can reset your search just by clicking on the reset search button and it takes all those selections that you made, you may have noticed that, every time you made a selection it showed up right here for you so that you can see what your selections are. But, whatever survey you want to pick, when you click on the survey, it opens up a new window for you so you don't have to, you know, back, go back to the old window. And you can go ahead and just dive into that survey. Where you're going to find out about the survey, if you click on data, they'll take you to where you can find the data. You can do a deeper dive into it. But, we didn't lose our tool page, we're still here. So, let's go ahead and click on, well I want to show you one other thing here on the tool. So, I'm going to, you might have noticed when I opened up these drop downs that there's a category called other. And so, right here, and then under frequencies there's also an other. That other is, doesn't list underneath of topics or subtopics, just geographies and frequencies. And so what is that? What does that mean right? All it is is that, we selected the most frequently utilized, or popular geographies and frequencies. Because if we put in every single geography, this drop down would be very long and so just we decided to keep it a little bit smaller. And, but it's still functioning for all the other geographies. So, if you go to this tab up here labeled geographies. Here we have a description for you of each of our geographies, in case you're curious what a metropolitan area was, for example. So, if you scroll down to other, here there's a list and a description for all of the geographies that fall under the other category. So if you don't see the geography you're looking for, say you wanted to look up school districts, then just select other and then that'll get you to start filtering those surveys down. And it's the same for frequencies. Where we give a brief description of these, definition of these frequencies and then also listed the frequencies such as biennial, or biannual under there. So those are much less used frequencies. Now I want to take you to the topics page. Alright, topics and subtopics. So, this is, this is a great page and a resource that you should consider using. And one is, I do give an example here of, one of the biggest questions that came out of our data user research was, what, why should I topic first or subtopics first? So it was a little bit confusing.

So we did give some guidance here. So if, you're welcome to come into the topics page and check that out. It doesn't really matter what direction you go in, it's just a matter of, do you want to see an overview of economic topic surveys first and then whittle it down? Or do you want to do the, vice versa, do you want to see only business surveys. And then, you know, select your main topics such as economic. So, it just, you'll pull up exact same number of surveys if you use exact same selections. And, but it just, all you want to see is, you know, in the overview of what pulls up first. Okay. So, then if we come down here there's some helpful hints. Some surveys contain, you know, more than one topic. Somebody might have been confused about that, so we wanted to give some helpful tips here. And then for me the most useful part is, these are all the subtopics listed underneath of main topics. So there are some places where a subtopic will overlap, it'll be located in a main topic. And so this is helpful to understand that. Another reason why this is helpful is, you may be using nomenclature or terminology that's a little bit different than what's in the tool. And so this will help you look up the appropriate check box or term to search for. And so we thought this would be a helpful resource to you. I'm going to go ahead and steal an example from our Data Gem that Census Academy made on the Census Survey Explorer. So, I'm going to go back to the tool. So say you wanted to find data on American Indians. Alright. So, we are not pulling, I think Indian, Indian pulls up when you add the s. So that's another thing to try taking or adding off an s. So, I know that we have more data on this demographic. But, there's just one survey pulling up. So, I want to troubleshoot this for you. So this is where we would go into topics and subtopics. And we're going to go ahead and scroll down. And I know that, you know, that's sort of in the demographic nature, right? And so, when we come down here you see American Indian, Alaska native, Black African, so all the race categories are just simply under race. So I should've gone into the tool and I should've searched race. Right? So, I'm going to go back into the subtopics and you do have a little search bar within these drop downs too, so you don't have to scroll and you can just type and pull up what you're looking for. So that sometimes help faster to do it that way. And, so now I know I see I have race. So that's an example of how you might be using the subtopics and topics guidance page. Next, I'm going to say, I want to, I know that I don't want to have data for the nation. So, I just really want to look at tribal areas.

So I'm going to go to geographies and see if that's there and yep here we go, there's a check mark, check box next to tribal areas, I can just easily select that. But if it wasn't here I would of selected other. And then I want to know economic data on these tribal areas. Okay. So we've got two surveys that pulled up, so that's a really great start for my research. Now I'm just going to take you real quickly to the help page, which has some frequently asked questions. So I highly recommend that you come to this page. These questions a lot of them were derived from our user experience research. So, we know other people have had this question and we try to answer them for you. And as we get more questions about this, well we may add to this and let this page evolve. There's also a link to that Data Gem I mentioned here on the help page as well. Alright. So, next I want to go back to the presentation. And I'm going to go ahead and involve you all in the presentation now. So it's time to just try this tool out, I'm going to give you a couple quick little exercises to do. So if you haven't gone to the tool yet, go ahead and go. Bookmark the tool so you don't forget about it. In your favorite browser. So how would you find what surveys have data on the education level of residents in your county? What would you check off and how many surveys populate? So go ahead and just give that, give that a question try, your data question is, what surveys have data on education levels of residents in my county? I'll just give a couple more seconds, maybe somebody who's participating can throw in if they did a count of how many surveys populated, let us know. Okay. Yep, thanks Elaina. So, Elaina got it. We checked education under the subtopics menu and then we check county in the geography menu and seven surveys populated. So, couple more correct answers. And then I have just one more. It's pretty easy tool to use, so hopefully it won't take anyone too long to come up with the answer. Find which surveys have economic data for Veterans, as well as by race. So what would you check? How many surveys populate for that data question? What surveys have economic data for Veterans, as well as race? Okay, just a couple more seconds here. If you have an answer go ahead and share it. Okay. So you should have checked economic from the topics menu and then checked veterans and then race in the subtopics menu. And I counted eight surveys at the time that I designed this question. Sometimes some survey numbers will change as we add more topics to surveys or as a survey gets added. So, this, these numbers won't stay consistent if you come back and watch this webinar later on the recording.

Sometimes the answers could change as we add surveys. Okay. So, a couple more plugs just for our resources. Kim if you don't mind can you throw up the link to the Data Gem in the chat for everyone. This Data Gem is a seven minute Data Gem. We would love if you shared it with your social media. We also started putting badges on our Data Gems and some suggested text. So help us promote this tool, we want to make sure that it gets out there and it gets used. And that people understand it's so much easier now to look up what surveys have information you need. And so, we always love getting your help on getting that word out. So share the Data Gem on your channels and there's some text that you can just cut and paste. If you completed a Data Gem you can click on this little badge and download it and then post the badge so you can advertise to your peers that you now have the skills, this new skill about learning, you've learned how to use Census Survey Explorer. And, so all of our new Data Gems going forward should have this badge. And we have certificates too with our courses. So, please go ahead and watch that Data Gem or share it with others. And then also don't forget about our ask data line. And so now we can move into any questions that you have for our panel. But I'm going to recap real quick today. That, you know, today what you've learned is, Census Survey Explorer can help you in your research process. Enabling a streamlined process to get a baseline of surveys to look at further. You've learned what information is available for each survey through this tool, and you've learned how to use the tool, and how to troubleshoot a couple of common mistakes, and what resources are available for you if you have further questions. And so without further ado, I'll go ahead and take a look at the Q&A here and Amy and Logan can join in and we will answer questions as they come. Any chat Q&A moderators also I appreciate any help if you saw any particularly good questions that we should make sure we get to. Okay. Is there a variable tool. So a variable level tool would be more like a data tool, right? I think that would probably be something more [inaudible]. Something like that, Barbara. Alexandra you can weigh in too on that. Is there way a you can demonstrate opening one of the surveys and accessing the data? Let me come back to that one and maybe we'll go give that a try at the end. Yep. Go ahead.
Logan Powell: Yeah so, I can speak about, can I speak about air table?

Mary Leisenring: Yeah, sure.

Logan Powell: Amy do you want to make the Amani Barnett question, how is the data stored?

Amy Lo: Yeah I can answer that question. So, the data is stored inside of like our database, which is housed in on a so called Airtable. And we received all of the survey data and information from a combination of our data experts at the Census who helped us compile the information to show on this website.

Logan Powell: We also had a question about how people can add surveys. Do we have link to that for people inside the bureau or is that accessible to anybody? Mary.

Mary Leisenring: Can you repeat that Logan one more time?

Logan Powell: So we have a question about how we can, how people could suggest surveys to be added to the Explorer.

Mary Leisenring: I would email the ask data line or I'm going to show my contact information at the end of the slideshow here so you can email me directly as well if there's a missing survey. I do know that we are working with several program areas on adding some new surveys. So, it definitely can be done and we can review the tool on a regular basis to make sure that we're adding new content that needs to be added. I'm trying to read through questions and Amy and Logan please feel free that if you see one too. It's helpful if your re-ask your question and keep it at the bottom fresh for us too.

Amy Lo: I see a question from Linda who asked, I can't see where to select a topic. When I click on topics and subtopics it gives me a hot document. So if you go to the home page of the survey explorer tool. And then go to the drop down for topics and subtopics, that's where you should be able to select. The pages for the geographies, frequency topics. And so topics are more so designed as additional information for you to learn more about each topic.

Logan Powell: So Yvonne Whitemore you have a question here about the search did not reset between the examples. You would probably just have to go back into the search bar and then clear out the search and type in the next search query.

Mary Leisenring: The search bar is definitely picky about the language you use. And so, again like if you use a s at the end of a word you might want to take that off. Again I prefer to use the drop downs over the search bar and the search bar I think is more handy when you know exactly what you're looking for.

Logan Powell: We have a couple of questions in here about like what, like level of access and data availability and so on. Just to be clear, the Survey Explorer is really just to get you started on your path to figuring out what data are available. So you would type in themes, topics, you know, particular topics of interest, categories like for example, poverty, or transportation, or those types of things are what you're going to find most easily through the Census Survey Explorer. The Survey Cxplorer is just the kind of first step and then once you found sort of a subset of surveys from, there's 100 plus surveys in there. Once you found a subset that you're interested in, you usually use data.census.gov, which is our kind of our American Fact Finder replacement tool. You dive deeper into the data that are available via that tool. So that's data.census.gov.

Mary Leisenring: I see a question, how do you look for data available by block group from Brandy. Geographies, so you would select other. If you're not seeing the geography just select the other and blocks are in there and tracts. And another person asked, if you go to census.gov is there a direct link? And so, yeah you would go, let me see if I can even just demonstrate it for you. Let me see how I can get out of the PowerPoint here for you. So, if we go, you're going to go, let me, come on. Just trying to get a web page to pull up here for us, there we go. If you go to census.gov, the, to me the easiest pathway is you go to Surveys and Programs in the tab across the top here. And you go to all surveys and programs. And, so this is the list of all of our surveys that the tool is based on. On the left here there's a link to Census Survey Explorer. And there's also a link on the right hand side. So we have a link on the left and the right of the list of all our surveys and programs. That's the easiest way to get to the tool. It's also under Data Tools and Apps. If you go to Explore Data and you go to Data Tools and Apps, and you scroll down, it's alphabetical, to Census Survey Explorer, it's right here. So, that's how you can get there from our home page, thanks for that question.

Amy Lo: Yeah Mary do you think you could do one more demo of using the topics and subtopics questions, since we're getting another question about how to use the topics drop down on the explorer?

Mary Leisenring: Okay, yeah sure. So, if I go to, is there a particular topic you're interested in?

Logan Powell: So James Cox no, the search bar is actually just, James Cox asks does the search box accept Boolean or wildcard searches. That's, no it basically a, it's a regex key character search. So it can begin or contain the text that you type in.

Amy Lo: So.

Mary Leisenring: Okay so, if we wanted to select childcare for example, we only get one survey to populate, so let's get a different one than that so we can show a little bit more than that. Let's go to children. Alright, so we're going to populate all the surveys with children. And here I'm selecting a subtopic for us because I'm just, I'm curious, I'm going to go and scroll through, you know, there's quite a bit. So I've decided, you know what, I want to narrow that down more, but I did just want to take a quick look at was available. But I only want demographic information on children. Like I don't, so I'm going to select demographic. And then I scroll down and it's still going to be a healthy number of surveys, but I've eliminated a couple. You could also, say you wanted to only know about like housing data on children. So you could switch, like because that even narrows it a little bit more down to just six instead of I think before it was like four rows. So, that's how you just use them interchangeably to narrow down. But like if I selected housing first and then I select children, after that then I have the same number of six surveys. So the order doesn't matter, you're going to get the same data pull up for you. But, or surveys I should say, pull up for you. It's just a matter of what you want to look at first. And how fast you want to narrow it down. If you're like super confident, I know I only want housing, and I know I only want children, then just go for it. But if you wanted to take a littler precursory review of all housing surveys first before whittled it down to children. It just gives you flexibility. It's not meant to be confusing, it's just meant to give you flexibility and how you use and view the surveys. Okay. Alrighty, any other good questions in here Logan and Amy that you can help, are you scrolling through for us?

Logan Powell: There are a lot and they're streaming through, we're trying to get some of them on chat directly while you're speaking.

Mary Leisenring: Thank you.

Logan Powell: So one person mentioned that the site didn't work without https.

Mary Leisenring: Okay.

Logan Powell: So that very well could be the case, because we use secure carrier transport protocol for all of our websites. All of our, you know, pages or website.

Mary Leisenring: Right. We did have, oh go ahead, yeah we.

Logan Powell: I just wanted to reiterate one more time that, the survey explorer is really just a first step, I think the, so to reiterate what Mary said initially. What we are, and what Amy really isolated as a very salient problem for, people who are not familiar with the Census products. Is that many people don't even know that we have all these surveys. They think that we do a, you know, a survey once every ten years, but we really do them ongoing basis and have hundred plus surveys. So it's a place for people who are not at all familiar with Census to discover what kind of surveys we do, we run. And then you would go to data.census.gov, which is a way to actually unpack the survey that you're interested in. Really dig in deeper to find out like specific, you know, you know demographics that you're interested in, businesses that you may be interested in, healthcare, health issues, or healthcare statistics, there's, I mean there's just too many mention. Each of these surveys can contain hundreds or tens of thousands of variables for example and the ACS has 10,000 different ways that you can look at the data. So, it's just a starting point and you're recommended to use this as a kind of, for people who are unfamiliar Census to get started.

Mary Leisenring: Someone asked, can you share a case when the search bar is what would you prefer? I did mention using a survey name as a use case. But, say you wanted to look for… Let me reset the search first. Say you wanted to look for, you wanted data on Puerto Rico. So you could potentially use the search bar and that will pull up all the surveys that have the word Puerto Rico in that, in the descriptions or the metadata. And then what I would do is then use, say I want to whittle it down to, I want information on children. And so I would select that and then now I have one survey actually that pulls up that has data on Puerto Rico that has the subtopic of children. So that could be how you use it. And it's a more deliberate way. I'm scrolling through questions still, trying to get to as many as I possible can. That haven't answered yet by the chat moderators, thank you for working so hard chat moderators.

Logan Powell: There was a question here about API, we don't have an API that's publicly available for this particular tool. At least not yet, if that's something that a lot of people would like then maybe we can consider that. But we do have an API for our general data, like all of our data and that's api.census.gov/data. And you can say /data.html. I can't find the actual question at the moment, there's so many to dig through here, but I do recall seeing that. You can also go to census.gov/developers and that's a good place to get started with our APIs.

Mary Leisenring: Logan, there's a question that says, can you select data that only as shape files, I'm not quite sure. So data that's available by shape file, is that what they're asking?

Logan Powell: Yeah, so any Census geography we have shape files available for those geographies. So, you can actually go to TigerWeb, I can't find that, where is the question, I can just give them a link.

Mary Leisenring: It was at 1:38 pm.

Logan Powell: Oh it's way back, okay. I'll do that [inaudible].

Mary Leisenring: Alright. I can't see where to select a topic when I click on the topics and subtopics, it gives me a help document but not a link to see that list. I'm not quite sure, Linda if you're still here maybe, if you contact me or the ask data line we can help you with that. I'm not sure why you're not seeing the list of topics on the web page. So, I will say we, this tool is in it's beta form. And so if there's any bugs that occur, you know, we are addressing those, it's, but it has been released as a beta tool. So we're still looking at it, making improvements. But, we actually did have our first bug actually happen this week. But we, we think we've resolved that so, but if there are some bugs still please let us know through the ask data line and we'll record those and work on that with our developer. Okay. I tried to search for Indiana. So, this is a common troubleshooting or error, it's not meant, we don't have states. So if you're looking for data on a state level, you need to go into geography. And you select states. And then those are the surveys available by state. So you, and, you know, you want to filter it down by more topics or frequencies that's fine. But, to get the actual data for your state, you would need to go into that survey and find out what tools have data for that survey and go into that tool. So, you're not going to find anything pull up when you type in your state, you have to select the state geography to see what surveys are available at the state level. So that's, sort of not the purpose of the tool, to find that specific data, you're looking to see what your options are.

Logan Powell: I got a question here from Margaret.

Mary Leisenring: Sure, go ahead.

Logan Powell: Oh somebody else speaking, I'm sorry.

Mary Leisenring: Someone suggest a concern when typing a search term, are multiple words treated as a phrase? Logan or Amy can you speak to that?

Amy Lo: I think it will do an or, like it will look for, hold on let me double check. Logan I, you might want to answer this one.

Logan Powell: Yeah, I mean it's going to do a full text stream search. So if you type in two words it's going to look for an exact match of those two words, it's better to do two different searches with two separate words if you're looking for multiple words. Yeah. Let's see. I did want to mention one thing that I know we're almost out of time, but I think that we had some questions that I really couldn't answer specific, but I wanted to answer generally. I mean Amy Lo is really the kind of, our civic digital fellow, was the genesis of this idea. I think inside the internal, at Census we're kind of in the weeds, we're not kind of in the weeds we're very much in the weeds. You can imagine with 100 plus products that, you know, you can tend to see a lot, you're seeing a lot of weeds right there. And it just gets deeper. So Amy really recognized very quickly that we had a discovery problem. And this tool is really, you know, meant to sort of address that higher level, someone who's not in the weeds, like where do I even get started questions, that's kind of. And we have many many many tools that you can dig in deeper once you know where to get started. The getting started problem just, this was, this is, surprisingly the first product that we really have dedicated to that problem. So. Kudos to Amy on that.

Mary Leisenring: Yeah.

Amy Lo: Thank you so much Logan.

Mary Leisenring: Maynard Clark, how do we Wikipedians use ACS and other Census data for making status and dynamic charts for gathering data? I think that's really interesting question and I want to make sure you are aware of our SLACK channel for developers where you can get a lot of information. And Logan would you post the link to the SLACK channel for developers for Maynard in there, it's at 1:50 pm. I don't know if they're still with us. But, that's a great place and certainly, you know, Wikipedia and using Census data in Wikipedia is like a noble endeavor.

Logan Powell: You said 1:50?

Mary Leisenring: Yeah.

Logan Powell: The Wikipedians thing? Yeah.

Mary Leisenring: Yeah. And then I, I had someone, a couple of questions, how do I get in touch with, so I threw up the get in touch with us slide for you, it has Logan and I as, Amy is not an employee with Census anymore. But she has joined us graciously for this panel. So we're not putting up her contact information. Since, yeah. But, please feel free to contact Logan and I and again ask data line for tool questions. And thanks for all the kudos, I appreciate that. Please take a minute to fill out our evaluation. The link will be posted for you all. And we done our best to try to get to as many questions as we could, there was, it was a very active Q&A. A lot of questions being posed and we did our best to get to as many of them as we could. I did see some specific questions on, you know, is there data on certain topics. And so, I'm definitely going to record this chat, make sure I go through, see if there's any topics that we need to add in the future. But, I think one person asked about adoption. I would actually just go, I would go to look at the topics and see what comes closest to what you need. So, if we don't have something that granular or variable that you're looking for, just bump it up to the next level. So like if you're looking for, somebody mentioned fosters or adoption I believe. So you go to children, right, if we don't have anything at that granular level, I'd have to go into the tool and look and see. But, definitely can select up and then start looking at those surveys to see if any of them would fit your needs.

[Interruption in the audio] Time pressures, since oatmeal can be made in seconds in the microwave. Oatmeal and other cereal uses of oats are a substantial part of Americans breakfast need industry.

Mary Leisenring: Thank you. Okay, well, again thanks again for joining us today. We appreciate you and again share the Data Gems, share the tool with your peers, we hope that you like it and it helps save you some time in your research process.

That concludes today's conference, thank you for participating, you may disconnect at this time.